

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02713 262110Z

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SUBJECT: UNITED PARTY AVOIDS SELF-DESTRUCTION

1. MAJOR OUTCOME OF TWELVE-HOUR MEETING OF UNITED PARTY'S CAUCUS AT CAPE TOWN JUNE 20 WAS THAT SIR DE VILLIERS GRAFF FINALLY ASSERTED LEADERSHIP AND AVERTED EXPLOSION THAT COULD HAVE RESULTED FROM CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PARTY'S LEADING CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS. BY ACTING DECISIVELY ,GRAFF HAS PUT TO REST SPECULATION THAT HIS RETIREMENT AS LEADER OF UP WAS IMMINENT.

2. APPARENTLY IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO REFORMISTS THAT THEY HAD TO BECOME MORE AMENABLE TO PARTY DISCIPLINE AND THAT THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH CONSERVATIVES SHOULD BE KEPT IN-HOUSE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. NEVERTHELESS,THREATS BY CONSERVATIVES THAT REFORMISTS WERE TO BE "DEALT WITH" NEVER MATERIALIZED. IN FACT , IN TERMS OF POLICIES NOW BEING EMPHASIZED BY UP, REFORMISTS ACHIEVED A VICTORY.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING GRAAF ANNOUNCED COMPOSITION

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 02713 262110Z

OF A NEW "CAUCUS SECRETARIAT",OR SHADOW CABINET.ALTHOUGH

OUTNUMBERED CONSERVATIVES, REFORMISTS WILL HAVE KEY POSITIONS IN THIS STRUCTURE. MOREOVER, BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REFORMISTS AND CONSERVATIVES WAS A NEW, LIBERAL "SEVEN-POINT PROGRAM OF POLICY GUIDELINES". THESE INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, REMOVAL OF ALL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH AFRICA BASED ON SKIN COLOR, REJECTION OF JOB RESERVATION, UPHOLDING OF POWER AND RIGHTS OF COURTS TO PROTECT CIVIL LIBERTIES, ADVOCACY OF FREE AND COMPULSORY SCHOOLING FOR ALL RACES, AND A COMMITMENT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH BLACK HOMELAND GOVERNMENTS RE FUTURE STATUS OF HOMELANDS. CAUCUS ALSO APPROVED GRAFF'S PREVIOUS POLICY STATEMENT THAT BLACKS SHOULD HAVE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL RIGHTS IN URBAN AREAS, IMMORALITY ACT SHOULD BE ABOLISHED AND COLOREDS SHOULD ULTIMATELY SHARE POLITICAL POWER WITH WHITES.

4. AS ONE NEWSPAPER PUT IT, GRAFF, "THE GREAT CONCILIATOR," SEEMS TO HAVE PULLED UNITED PARTY BACK FROM BRINK OF DISINTEGRATION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PERSONAL ANIMOSITIES AND IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR INTRA-

PARTY FEUDING STILL REMAIN. DURING FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION THESE PROBLEMS ARE VERY LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO HAMPER UP'S EFFECTIVENESS. FURTHERMORE, BATTLE BETWEEN CAPE UP LIBERALS AND ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE LEADERS OF THE PARTY THERE IS CONTINUING. PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THREE PROMINENT LIBERALS, INCLUDING SENATOR BRIAN BAMFORD, COULD REIGNITE CONFLICT WITH THE PARTY. UNQUOTE
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